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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/052,356	01/23/2002	Fatollah Youssefifar	20272/0700	3388

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EXAMINER
DUNWOODY, AARON M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3679	

DATE MAILED: 05/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/052,356	YOUSSEFIFAR, FATOLLAH	
	Examin r	Art Unit	
	Aaron M Dunwoody	3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *23 January 2002* .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-16* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-16* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) *4* .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show the layer on the inside surface providing a tapering surface as described in the specification. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Page 5 recites, "An outer region 34...manual gripping regions 43...tulip-shape area"; however, all of these statements cannot be correct.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

Claim 12 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 12, line 1, change from "An assembly of a corrugated pipe and a coupling" to "An assembly comprising a corrugated pipe and a coupling". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-5, 7-10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US patent 5884943, Katzer et al.

In regards to claim 1, Katzer et al discloses a coupling for a pipe, the coupling comprising a housing (17) of a relatively rigid plastics material, the housing having a bore therein; a retainer (29) for retaining the pipe within the housing; and a layer of a relatively deformable material (24) moulded onto at least a part of both an inner and outer surface of the housing.

In regards to claim 2, Katzer et al discloses the layer on the inner surface being adapted to form a seal with an outside of the pipe (implied).

In regards to claim 3, Katzer et al discloses the layer on the inner surface providing a tapering surface.

In regards to claim 4, Katzer et al discloses the retainer being formed integrally with the housing.

In regards to claim 5, Katzer et al discloses the retainer including at least one resilient catch member adapted to engage a projection on the pipe.

In regards to claim 7, Katzer et al discloses the layer on the outer surface including a part (28) formed on external ledge of the housing to provide a seal with a cooperating member (a hand).

In regards to claim 8, Katzer et al discloses the layer on the outer surface including a part (20) that provides a manual gripping region.

In regards to claim 9, Katzer et al discloses the layer on the inner and outer surfaces being continuous with one another.

In regards to claim 10, Katzer et al discloses the deformable material being an elastomeric material.

In regards to claim 13, Katzer et al discloses a method of forming a coupling (col. 3, lines 60-67 through col. 4, lines 1-14) comprising the steps of injecting a first material of a relatively hard plastics material to form a housing of the coupling with an integral retainer; and subsequently injecting a second, softer material to form a layer on the harder material both on an inside and outside of the housing.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent 4923227, Petty et al in view of US patent 5884943, Katzer et al.

In regards to claim 1, Petty et al discloses a coupling for a pipe, the coupling comprising a housing (1) of a relatively rigid plastics material, the housing having a bore therein; and a retainer (9) for retaining the pipe within the housing. Petty et al does not disclose a layer of a relatively deformable material moulded onto at least a part of both an inner and outer surface of the housing. Katzer et al teaches a layer of a relatively deformable material (24) moulded onto at least a part of both an inner and outer surface of the housing (17) to promote good grip and preventing damage at positions established ergonomically (col. 1, lines 20-22). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a layer of a relatively deformable material moulded onto at least a part of both an inner and outer surface of the housing to promote good grip and preventing damage at positions established ergonomically as taught by Katzer et al.

In regards to claim 2, Katzer et al discloses the layer on the inner surface being adapted to form a seal with an outside of the pipe (implied).

In regards to claim 3, Katzer et al discloses the layer on the inner surface providing a tapering surface.

In regards to claim 4, Petty et al discloses the retainer being formed integrally with the housing.

In regards to claim 5, Petty et al discloses the retainer including at least one resilient catch member adapted to engage a projection on the pipe.

In regards to claim 6, Petty et al discloses the pipe having a corrugated external surface, and wherein the catch member is adapted to engage between the corrugations.

In regards to claim 7, Katzer et al discloses the layer on the outer surface including a part (28) formed on external ledge of the housing to provide a seal with a cooperating member (a hand).

In regards to claim 8, Katzer et al discloses the layer on the outer surface including a part (20) that provides a manual gripping region.

In regards to claim 9, Katzer et al the layer on the inner and outer surfaces being continuous with one another.

In regards to claim 10, Katzer et al the deformable material being an elastomeric material.

In regards to claim 11, Petty et al in view of Katzer discloses a coupling for connecting one end of a corrugated pipe to a cooperating member, the coupling comprising a rigid housing of tubular shape having two spring catches on opposite sides adapted to engage between corrugations on an outside of the pipe inserted within the coupling; and a continuous layer of a deformable material bonded with both an inside

and outside of the housing to form an internal, tapering sealing surface adapted to seal with an outside of the pipe, an external annular sealing member, adapted to seal with the cooperating member, and an external gripping region.

In regards to claim 12, Petty et al in view of Katzer et al an assembly of a corrugated pipe and a coupling, the coupling comprising a housing of a relatively rigid plastics material, the housing having a bore therein; retaining means for retaining the pipe with the housing; and a layer of a relatively deformable material moulded onto at least a part of both an inner and outer surface of the housing, wherein the layer on the inside surface forms a seal with an outside surface of the pipe in the bore.

In regards to claim 13, Katzer et al discloses a method of forming a coupling (col. 3, lines 60-67 through col. 4, lines 1-14) comprising the steps of injecting a first material of a relatively hard plastics material to form a housing of the coupling with an integral retainer; and subsequently injecting a second, softer material to form a layer on the harder material both on an inside and outside of the housing.

In regards to claim 14, Petty et al discloses the retainer including at least one resilient catch member adapted to engage a projection on the pipe.

In regards to claim 15, Petty et al discloses the retainer including at least one resilient catch member adapted to engage a projection on the pipe.

In regards to claim 16, Petty et al discloses the retainer including at least one resilient catch member adapted to engage a projection on the pipe.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure because it illustrates the current state of the art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M Dunwoody whose telephone number is (703) 306-3436. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday between 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne H Browne can be reached on (703) 308-1159. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9302 for regular communications and (703) 872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

.amd
May 1, 2003

Lynne H. Browne
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 3670